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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7961
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RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY 0065
RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU PRIORITY 0106
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 4895
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY 4110
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY 1251
RUEHDBU/AMEMBASSY DUSHANBE PRIORITY
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 6962
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 5368
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0626
RUEHNT/AMEMBASSY TASHKENT PRIORITY 2877
RUEHKP/AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY 5303
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 1848
RUEHPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 0130
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 2074
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 001354

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TAGS: [AF](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PK](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: MUSHARRAF ON CHIEF JUSTICE CONTROVERSY, FATA, AND JIRGAS

Classified By: Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker, Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[11](#). (U) Ambassador paid his farewell call on President Musharraf on March 24. The meeting was front-page news in most Pakistani papers, with GOVERNMENT INSTIGATING ATTACKS AGAINST FOREIGNERS IN FATA

[12](#). (C) Musharraf said he remains fully committed to the war on terror. Two brigades have completed their deployment to North and South Waziristan. While the government will need to proceed carefully to insure that the population is with the government and against the foreigners, Musharraf said FATA and JIRGAS

[13](#). (C) Musharraf expressed appreciation for the Administration's commitment to provide USD 150 million in FY 2007 to begin funding Tribal Area development. Musharraf understood that success with this tranche of money was key to securing additional funding

[14](#). (C) Musharraf agreed that the Pak-Afghan jirga process had great potential to improve cross-border cooperation, to improve security and to resolve the CHIEF JUSTICE CONTROVERSY

[15](#). (C) Musharraf confided that the Government of Pakistan had made a mess of handling corruption accusations against the Chief Justice. He said

[16](#). (C) Musharraf was personally directing damage control. He had provided very specific orders to the police and other agencies, telling them to leave the media alone and not to engage protesters head-on

[17](#). (C) Musharraf said he had personally ordered all relevant institutions to allow the Chief Justice unfettered movement around Pakistan. (Note: The Friday Times -- the favored publication of Pakistan's intelligentsia -- this week highlighted the argument that street demonstrations by

[18](#). (C) While describing next steps in the controversy, Musharraf concurred with Ambassador that Law Minister Wasi Muhammad Zafar, whose position Although he was a "loyalist," Zafar was a liability and Musharraf said he was going to fire him. Musharraf also would fire the head of the Federal

[19](#). (C) Musharraf offered that, while Information Minister Durrani had been overwhelmed by the crushing international media attention since

[20](#). (C) A discussion of the upcoming Arab League Summit is being reported Septel. CROCKER